

Recipient: Robert Robertson
ANS Asst. Curator

Connecticut Historical Society
[Hartford, CT]

1933

Connecticut Historical Society

Hartford, Conn.

Aug. 11, 1933.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator
American Numismatic Society
Broadway and 155th Street
New York, N. Y.

My dear Sir:

Mr. Godard of the State Library has sent me a photostat of your recent letter to him regarding boxes in which the coins of your Society are kept or displayed. May I ask if my understanding of this letter is correct, namely, that you keep your silver coins in boxes lined with black paper? My observation has been that such paper tended to quickly tarnish silver coins to an almost black shade.

Truly yours,

Albert C. Bates

Librarian

August 14, 1935.

Mr. Albert C. Bates
Connecticut Historical Society
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Sir:

Due to the absence of Mr. Wood your letter of August 11th has been referred to me for reply. The boxes we use are lined with a glazed black or blue paper, manufactured by T. James Clarke of Jamestown, New York. None of our coins have tarnished that have been kept in these boxes.

Very truly yours,

RR:JG

Assistant Curator

P. S. If you wish to send us three or four of your blackest coins we would be glad to clean them by our electrolytic process, laquer them and return them to you after a period of about a week or ten days.

Handwritten in red ink:
C. J. Wood
Aug 14 1935
Hartford Conn.

Connecticut Historical Society

Hartford, Conn.

Aug. 15, 1933.

Mr. Robert Robertson,
Assistant Curator
American Numismatic Society
Broadway & 155th St.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I thank you for your most courteous reply to my recent letter regarding the use of boxes lined with black paper in which coins are placed by your Society. Yet I must confess that you missed the particular point of my letter that is whether silver coins were placed in such boxes. My observation has been that black paper or black cloth tended to tarnish silver coins. I expressed this view recently to Mr. Godard, librarian of the Connecticut State Library and as a result he has forwarded to me a photostatic copy of ~~your~~ *Mr. Wood's* letter to him upon the subject.

The coins comprising this Society's small collection have been placed by me in boxes lined with white paper and there has been no trouble in the matter of their tarnishing.

Truly yours,

Albert C. Bates
Librarian

I am sorry to have omitted the question about silver when speaking about coins in reference to the black boxes and hope to make myself understood in the following paragraphs.

We place all our coins in boxes lined with black glazed paper, this of course also includes the silver coins. The advantage of black over white is that they show up the coins to better advantage, being made of glazed paper they do not collect dust, and for that reason will not become soiled. Not any of our silver coins have tarnished in these boxes on account of the black paper, the side of the coin touching the paper has ALWAYS remained bright while the other side has tarnished more or less from the gases in the air.

I am at present occupied by cleaning all our silver coins with the electrolysis method, and then applying lacquer to the surface so that the gases and impurities in the air will have no effect on them, coins that I lacquered six years ago show not the slightest sign of tarnish.

August 17, 1933.

Mr. Albert C. Bates
Librarian
Connecticut Historical Society
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Sir:

I am sorry to have omitted the question about silver when speaking about coins in reference to the black boxes and hope to make myself clear in the following paragraphs.

We place all our coins in boxes lined with black glazed paper; this of course also includes the silver coins. The advantage of black over white is that they show up the coins to better advantage, being made of glazed paper they do not collect dust, and for that reason will not become soiled. Not any of our silver coins have tarnished in these boxes on account of the black paper; the side of the coin touching the paper has ALWAYS remained bright while the other side has tarnished more or less from the gases in the air.

I am at present occupied by cleaning all our silver coins with the electrolysis method and then applying laquer to the surface so that the gases and impurities in the air will have no effect on them. Coins that I laquered six years ago show not the slightest sign of tarnish.

Very truly yours,

RR:JG

Assistant Curator